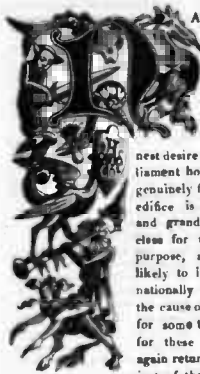


The Builder.

NO. 1111.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1844.



NATURAL

prone to esteem things genuine of their several kinds, we again express our earnest desire that the Parliament houses shall be genuinely finished. The edifice is large, lofty, and grand, of the first class for situation and purpose, and therefore likely to influence both nationally and privately, the cause of architecture for some time to come; for these reasons we again return to the subject of the works of art exhibited in St. James's-street, which we have so often visited, and have noticed so repeatedly.

With regard to carvings, which form a prominent feature in the collection, we must say those not prepared for the purpose bear the palm for execution, which, as we have already stated, we deem to be the fact sought to be elicited. The Gothic works exhibited by the two Thomases, those by Nash, and some of those by Pratt, have merit, and the artists who executed them may fairly be entrusted with the execution of parts of the work. The finest piece of carving in the collection is undoubtedly the frame exhibited by Rogers, which was executed by him for W. Beaumont, Esq., M.P.; and for which he received the sum of five hundred pounds; the grouping of the fruit, flowers and other objects, the delicate finish, the giving life to the dead tree, the quickening up the aspleen wood, the swelling the dried ligneous fibres into the rich pulpy fruit, must cause every beholder at once to exclaim, this is excellent, without looking into a glossary to see if it be Byzantine, or Norman, or Elizabethan, or Venetian, or Flemish, or Louis-quatorzeine, to find whether it be lawful or respectable, or *a-la-mode*, to exhibit any emotion; whether loorishness or ignorance will be displayed by admiration of that which evidently cannot be admired without some antiquarian or other leader to direct.

With regard to glass-staining, if the quantity which will be required be any thing like that which we suppose it may be, twenty glass-stainers at least should be employed. Wallemont ought, for the arms, to be employed, though not an exhibitor. Clutterbuck, Cobbett, Hoadley, Baillie, Ballantine, Higgins, Allan, Warrington, and Wilmshurst may be placed among those who should be entrusted with the execution of the ornamental work and pictorial and historical subjects. Among the decorators we should include Messrs. Coulton and Elliot, who had the good taste and good sense to send in that quiet and appropriate green-grounded subject, No. 157.

The elaborate design for the pavements and floors, by Mr. Owen Jones, reflects very great credit upon him. His notion, that the representation of things estimable should not be trampled upon, is good, and may, to a certain extent be acted upon; however, by this notion what would become of monumental brasses? Part of the work we should compose of the materials which he proposes for use; but his acquaintance with Moreco patterns he has hardly been able to throw off, and we doubt whether any part of his elaborate design is altogether free from a Moreco appearance. We, therefore, have considerable doubt whether any part of it would be appropriate just as it is.

Of encaustic tiles, many of those by Chamberlain and Co. are good in design, and are very proper for the work. We, however, wish the colours of some of them were changed for those of a richer and more *recherche* kind; the glazed brown patterns, for instance, have too much the effect of common pan-ware to be valued according to their cost and merit.

The Indian-red patterns, by Grimsley, are exceedingly beautiful and appropriate; and many of those by Copeland and Garrett, Minton, Singer, and Mayer, are worthy of being adopted.

With regard to the metal-works, there is a clever perforated casting in a right style, by Mapplebeck and Lowe.

We think all the stores should be designed on purpose, as should the fenders, fire-irons, scutecheon-plates, hinges, locks, and other viable metal-work.

The embossed leather decorations, by Leake and Co., some plain, some coloured, and some gilt, may be used for various parts of the work. Some of the effects produced in this material, of relief, flowers, and arabesques, are wonderful; judging from the ancient specimens which still remain, they would be very durable; and we have little doubt that other spectators, as well as the artists of this material, will say, after viewing their handy-works, "nothing like leather." At any rate, if carried no further, these specimens show how well they are adapted for going round the doors. This employment alone would occasion no trifling amount of work throughout this great national palace.

We have, in this review, endeavoured to be as impartial as possible, and that we have been so is attested by the numerous letters which we have received on the subject.

If we have chanced to know any of the parties who have exhibited, they have not been praised beyond their merits, and some such we have greatly dispraised.

NEW BUILDING-ACT.

THE proposed new Building-Act, as amended in committee, has been printed; it is much improved in many respects: the railing is nominally reversed, so as to agree with the present Act, and all preconceived notions of first and last; but some objectionable parts still remain, and some new propositions are inserted. The most objectionable project for forbidding chimneys to be turned away from their bases in any way which in practice may be found requisite (and which long and extensive experience proves may be soundly done), is still pertinaciously and ignorantly insisted upon, but which, if it became law, would, from its tyrannical nature, insure the repeal, in less than six months, of the whole Act, within this

free empire. When we have carefully looked over the whole Bill in its present form, we shall give a minute critique upon it.

On Wednesday last there were meetings at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, of the district surveyors and of the master-carpenters relative to the Bill: with what occurred at the former we are unacquainted; at the latter, Mr. Biern, the president, explained generally the nature of the emendations made in the Bill, which appeared to meet with approval, many oppressive proposals being expunged from it; the matter was referred back to the committee which drew up the report, (and which had interviews with Earl Lincoln upon the subject), in order to the effecting of a removal of the remaining objectionable parts of the Bill.

BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL, ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS.

WE have just seen a sketch for a proposed alteration to this edifice in a manner of which we totally disapprove; the change contemplated to be effected is by the removal of the present cupola, and the raising above the centre of the building a loftier lantern-cupola, in the French style, with scroll consoles at the bases of its supporting piers or pilasters. Three or four years ago, the facade of this pile was injured exceedingly by the addition of wings, which have a very unsatisfactory and indeed unhappy effect. Now, to the summit of the edifice, which is in the very simplest style of Grecian Ionic architecture, this incongruous and ill-advised addition is proposed, and perhaps, before the damage can be stopped, things may have advanced too far for the prevention of this wasteful breach of propriety. So it is our English architecture suffers more from injudicious alterations by those whose duty it is to increase the splendour of our national works, than by all the direct attacks of acknowledged barbarians.

THE SEVENTY-SIXTH EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS.—SECOND NOTICE.

915. Interior.—West Hill House, Haslemere, by John Hornby West, II.

This honorary amateur drawing is a glorious one; its whole effect—deep, rich, and brilliant—is wonderfully fine. The apartment which it represents is handsome, and is richly furnished in the style of the time of James the First. Its accessories are beautiful, the light and shade of the female figure sitting against the oriel window are perfect. Even the spaniel upon the Turkey carpet is represented as spaniels are not every day shown by the pencil. Paper, in this superb work, totally disappears. Carving, furniture, embossed ceiling, Turkey carpet, light, shades, colours, and execution, all combine to make this a production which, architecturally considered, we should prefer to any other picture in the exhibition.

1055. St. Peter's Church, Islington, as recently executed from the designs and under the superintendence of Stough and Rounie.

This is one of Charles Barry's inferior works altered. The church, as originally built, perhaps was the cheapest and most homely structure which its architect ever executed. The building has been enlarged, but little improved, and in many respects injured. The one-sided tower, surmounted by a spire, which has been built at its north-west corner, is a needless piece of irregularity added to a regular design, and ought to be removed; it is so mean, thin, and skewerlike, as to appear ready to fall upon the beholder. Many of the details of the new work are impure, and are applied in an un-Freemasonic manner.

1056. Design for the Water Temple, and Fountains for supplying the City of Pest, in Hungary, with Water, by W. T. Clark.

In an interior style abounding in diversified and